



Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Method And Apparatus For  
Connecting Tubulars Using A  
Top Drive

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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Group Art Unit: 3726

Examiner: Essama Omgba

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on  
December 30, 2002 with the United States Postal Service  
as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

12/30/02  
Date

Ari Kramm  
Signature

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2002**

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 25, 2003, (see attached Petition for Extension of time) please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0029/WBP for any fees required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

A substitute specification is submitted herewith. The Examiner objected to informalities in the specification, such as the omission of section headings. These informalities have been incorporated in the substitute specification.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

An abstract of the disclosure has been added to the substitute specification.